

News from Chinese Media

Notes from Post

Notes

News from Chinese Media

China MOFA: Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference On October 31, 2017

Q: Yesterday, a report from the South China Morning Post said that Chinese engineers have submitted a proposal to the Chinese government to build a 1000km tunnel to divert water from the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet to Xinjiang, which would have a big impact on India and other countries downstream and trigger their concerns. What's your comment on this?

A: According to my information, what you said is untrue.

China MOFA: Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference On November 2, 2017

Q: US President Donald Trump talked about the trade imbalance between China and the US, to which China always responds by saying the trade between China and the US is mutually beneficial and win-win in essence. How do you comment on that?

A: We have stated our views on the relevant issue of China-US economic and trade relations multiple times. You mentioned that we have been stressing that the economic and trade relations between China and the US is mutually beneficial and win-win in essence. It is indeed so. If you view economic and trade relations between China and the US in an objective manner, it's never hard to arrive at such a conclusion.

As the two largest economies in the world, China and the US are highly interdependent on each other. It's safe to say that we will swim or sink together. Indeed, with deepening and fast growing economic and trade cooperation, it is inevitable that certain differences and frictions may arise between China and the US. But we should be aware that this doesn't make the mainstream of China-US economic and trade relations. We indeed hope that the US will work with China for the shared goal, properly handle the relevant differences through dialogue and negotiation in a constructive way so as to ensure the steady and healthy development of China-US economic and trade relations.

In September, the Spokesperson of the Commerce Ministry explained that China has never intended to pursue trade surplus and the current situation in China-US trade is utterly determined by market. From January to August, in terms of trade in goods, China's import from the US rose by 20.1%, higher than the growth of the total China-US trade volume and China's export to the US. In terms of the trade in services, China always has a deficit with the US. In the first half of this year, China's deficit of trade in services with the US grew by 36.5% year by year. This speaks volumes.

Addressing the unbalanced trade between China and the US calls for the positive and concerted effort of the two sides. Following the successful meeting of the two heads of state at the Mar-a-Lago resort, China and the US have jointly advanced the 100-Day Action, conducted the first Comprehensive Economic Dialogue and achieved positive and tangible outcomes. We wish to work with the US to properly resolve the relevant issue through dialogue and negotiation in a constructive manner and uphold the steady and healthy development of China-US economic and trade relations. This is what the two countries and peoples aspire for, which also serves the common interests of the two sides.

U.S. Embassy Beijing Media Reaction – A Summary of Select PRC Media Commentary

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Top Stories for the Day in the Chinese Press

21st Century Business Herald featured the remarks by China's envoy on climate change that China could meet its carbon reduction target ahead of the 2020 schedule.

POTUS Visit

Deputy Secretary General Wei Jianguo of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges told *21st Century Business Herald* (pg 15) China-U.S. ties will move forward faster after President Trump's China visit. Speaking at the forum on China-U.S. economic cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative, Wei said Trump's visit may help take China's smart grid, high-speed rail, and other infrastructure developments into the U.S. market while bringing advanced U.S. technologies, equipment, and components to China. U.S. businesses could also access a broader global market by working with their Chinese peers to tap third-party markets through the Belt and Road Initiative, which has huge potential. The new highlights in trade would be life sciences and new materials, and in investment, aerospace, new energy, and smart cities, as China continues to import more from the United States. While the United States has left the TPP, it may well consider joining the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), engaging with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), while finalizing the BIT with China soon as possible.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Top Stories for the Day in the Chinese Press

21st Century Business Herald featured the world's key oil producers' accord to rein in output, aiming to hold the \$60 per barrel threshold.

The Paper ([HYPERLINK "http://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_1846320"]) quoted *China Petroleum Daily* saying that, in 6 months' time, President Donald Trump has put his executive order regarding oil and gas exploration in the ocean into practice, announcing the opening of bidding for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Ultimately, vitalizing American oil and gas industries serves three purposes: increasing financial income, generating jobs and achieving energy independence. Aside from increasing production, the consumer market is also key to the energy sector's prosperity. Analysts believe China could help U.S. oil and gas producers address overcapacity, rebalance the global oil supply and demand chains, as well as elevate oil prices. This explains why companies in the energy and large commodity sectors make up the bulk of the business delegation accompanying President Trump's visit to China.

The Paper ([HYPERLINK "http://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_1846556"]) reporter Yang Yang added energy collaboration and trade will be a key item on President Trump's China visit agenda. Listed on the business delegation are a number of natural gas producers, which signifies the United States plans to export more natural gas. Another possible highlight during President Trump's visit is joint projects between China's oil giant Sinopec and Freepoint Commodities and ArcLight Capital Partners from the United States. Their collaboration could help the United States reduce logistical costs and increase crude oil exports.

U.S.-China/Trade

U.S. solar industry: restricting photovoltaic imports hurts both United States and China

The Paper ([HYPERLINK "http://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_1845661"]) Reprinting a *Xinhua News Agency* report, *the Paper* noted the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) recommended that President Trump restrict imports of solar power equipment from certain countries including China. The article suggested it is up to the President to decide which trade remedies the United States will use to protect its domestic industry. On the other hand, opponents argue such measures will raise solar energy prices throughout the supply chain, cost many American jobs, and hit the solar industry hard. Wang Hejun, Director of Trade Remedy and Investigation at China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), commented that photovoltaic products' free flow helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is good for the environment. Therefore, upholding free trade in this area is both the responsibility of all stakeholders and in everyone's interest. MOFCOM urges U.S. investigative authorities to abide by WTO rules and be cautious when imposing trade restrictions.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

POTUS Visit

On page three, *Global Times–Chinese* published its account of Ambassador Branstad’s first print media interview since arriving to Beijing in June. The Ambassador talked about President Trump’s Asia tour, the Xi-Trump summit, and the story behind a painting that hangs on the Ambassador’s office wall. According to Ambassador Branstad, President Trump’s Asia tour is critical for strong, healthy U.S. relations with the region. One of Trump’s trip priorities is to seek solutions for the Korean peninsula, which will be the focus of his meeting with Xi. “We know the President commends China for its cooperation. We still have a lot to do, which will be part of the discussions. We hope to be able to press the DPRK and persuade it to denuclearize,” said Branstad. Another focus of the summit will be “free, fair, and reciprocal” trade and commerce, including a number of Memorandums of Cooperation to be signed between the trade delegation travelling with Trump and their Chinese counterparts. As Branstad pointed out, the United States has seen the progress China has made as it opens up and is glad China continues to develop. When asked his take on White House Chief of Staff John Kelly’s remark [that China beating the United States in trade does not make China an enemy], rather than give a straightforward answer, the Ambassador said the United States respects and appreciates China’s achievements. President Trump seeks better growth and income in the United States. For example, the United States could supply advanced, high-quality medical equipment to China, both to help improve the health of the Chinese people and to narrow the deficit. Ambassador Branstad admitted there remain many problems between China and the United States. The two countries need to discuss their differences candidly and find a way to work together to improve bilateral ties and benefit people on both sides. The Ambassador also revealed that the two Presidents and their wives will have a special, private meeting at the Palace Museum. When asked why President Trump, who tends to oppose President Obama, also plans to visit the Palace Museum, which Obama visited in 2009, Ambassador Branstad explained everyone wants to take this opportunity to learn about Chinese history, presidents, and ordinary people. A *Global Times* reporter noted a painting in the Ambassador’s office featuring the portrait of President Xi, which depicts his visit to Iowa on an agriculture delegation, with golden green corn and soybean fields as the background. Ambassador Branstad said that he brought the painting all the way from the United States and that it tells the story of the relationship between the two countries.

CCTV Evening News Headlines from 11/01/2017

1. China and Russia signed nearly 20 deals on investment as well as energy and space exploration after the 22nd regular meeting between government heads of the two countries.
2. Chinese legislators warned that China faces great challenge in solid waste treatment.

CCTV Evening News Headlines from 11/02/2017

1. Chinese lawmakers call for high awareness and prompt action to control solid waste which they believe to be a very serious problem.
2. Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli looks to China's south-to-north water diversion project to bring us more benefits. The project, one of the country's largest infrastructure schemes, was designed to take water from the south to dry areas in the north, including Beijing.

CCTV Evening News Headlines from 11/06/2017

3. China launched two BeiDou-3 satellites into space via a single carrier rocket to support its global navigation and positioning network.

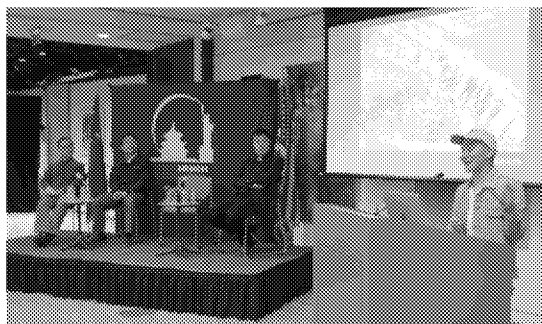
Notes from Post



Wuhan CG Highlights Civil Society at Palliative Care ToT Workshop

Oct. 23, Wuhan – Supported by Mission China Small Grant, U.S. NGO Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), the first international health organization working in Mainland China since 1983, hosted a week-long Palliative Care Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop in Wuhan for forty nursing and end-of-life care

professionals and instructors across the Hubei Province, with two highly experienced practitioners in the field from the United States as main trainers. Wuhan CG Fouss and PAO Dubray attended the opening ceremony, gave opening remarks and interacted with event organizers, trainers and trainees. Sharing his own experience with death in his opening remarks, CG Fouss highlighted the significant work that palliative care professionals do, as well as the Mission's active, firm and sustained support for Chinese civil society.



Alumni Speaker Series – “Exchange Alumni Observations – Grassland Environmental Protection”

Oct. 18, Beijing – Four exchange alumni Dr. Wei Qingpo (Fulbright), Yang Xiao (Humphrey), Pan Qing'an (IVLP) and Dr. Zhao Chaoyi (IVLP), who are from university, media, civil society and government, gave a panel discussion to the public on what they learned about grassland environmental protection during their investigation trip to Gansu

Tibetan area in late August 2017. The trip was funded by the 2017 Mission Driven Alumni Outreach Grant Program. As part of the panel, two trip team members Li Li (Humphrey) and Xiao Jing (Humphrey) also sent in video messages about their experience with this program. From different perspectives, the alumni talked about local environmental issues: grassland garbage pollution, challenges faced by the volunteers, the influence of religion on environmental protection, and the relationship between the government and volunteers. The audience was particularly interested and involved in the discussion about pollution caused by religious offerings and the influence of religion on environmental protection. Despite the different opinions, everyone came to an agreement that grassland environmental protection requires the joint efforts of multilateral cooperation and more people.

Notes

(U) China Development Bank Lends Another €150 Million to Portugal's Grid Operator

(U) Portugal's electrical grid operator REN (Redes Energéticas Nacionais) announced it has received a €150 million loan from China Development Bank. REN was purchased by China's State Grid in 2012 with the promise of up to a €1 billion line of credit. The company has already received two loans, representing €600M of the promised amount, leaving another €250 million line of credit open for future needs.

(U) Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has called for closer China-US cooperation in developing the next-generation nuclear power technology, as he met with Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and chairman of TerraPower, in Beijing on 3 November. TerraPower has a joint venture agreement with China National Nuclear Corporation to form the Global Innovation Nuclear Energy Technology Co Ltd. The two companies plan to work together to complete the Travelling Wave Reactor design and commercialise the TWR technology. According to *China Daily*, Li said: "This is a pioneering work in China-US high-tech cooperation, which is on a voluntary basis. This shows the open attitudes of both sides."